



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Storm Water & Manufacturing

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Description:

- When it rains or snows, the water that runs off of city streets, parking lots, construction sites and other impervious surfaces can wash sediment, oil, grease, toxics, pathogens and other pollutants into nearby storm drains or ditches.
- Once this pollution has entered the sewer system, it is usually discharged untreated into local streams and waterways creating storm water run-off pollution.
- In November 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) began Phase I of its storm water program requiring states to develop programs to combat this pollution problem.
- New regulations, known as storm water Phase II, have now been established in Indiana to reduce the impacts of storm water run-off from construction, industrial, municipal, governmental and institutional sources.
- General storm water rules are found in 327 IAC 15-6, known as Rule 6, the rule that deals with industry related storm water discharges, became effective November 26, 2003.

Environmental Impacts:

- Activities that take place at industrial facilities, such as material handling and storage, are often exposed to storm water.
- As runoff from rain or snowmelt comes into contact with these materials, it picks up pollutants and transports them to nearby storm sewer systems, rivers, lakes or coastal waters.
- Run-off from industrial activities can change natural hydrologic patterns, accelerate stream flows, destroy aquatic habitats and elevate pollutant concentrations and loadings.
- Without pollution prevention and appropriate controls that treat storm water, storm water run-off transports debris, chemicals and other pollutants to water bodies that result in the loss of recreational uses for local water bodies and injury to plants and animals that live in or use the water.

IDEM's Role:

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment in accordance with federal and state regulations, while providing for safe industrial operation vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM regulates industrial storm water discharge as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permitting Program under 327 IAC 15-6 (Rule 6).
- Under Phase I, requirements of Rule 6 applied to specific categorical industrial facilities which had a point source discharge of storm water exposed to industrial activity from their facility.

- Under Phase II, Rule 6 was revised to include an allowance of a conditional “no exposure certification” exclusion to any designated industry. This exclusion provides both an incentive for facilities to protect their operations from storm water exposure and a water quality benefit for the state by reducing polluted run-off.
- If it is determined that industrial storm water discharges are mixing with other waste streams, then the facility does not qualify for a general storm water permit and must apply for an individual storm water permit with more specific guidelines for protecting water quality.

Citizen’s Role:

- Citizen involvement has been and will continue to be a vital component of IDEM’s overall plan to protect Indiana’s environment and the health of Hoosiers.
- Citizens are encouraged to contact IDEM’s Office of Water Quality with any questions or concerns about Industrial storm water discharge and its effects on local water quality.

More Information:

- For more information on Storm water and Phase II regulations please visit IDEM’s storm water Web site at <http://www.in.gov/ide/4896.htm>.
- For more information about Rule 6, visit IDEM’s Web site at <http://www.in.gov/ide/4901.htm>.
- For Rule 6 related questions or concerns, please call IDEM’s Rule 6 Coordinator at (317)-233-0202.

